

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,

EXHIBITING THE

PROGRESS AND CONDITION OF THE LIBRARY

DURING

THE YEAR 1879.

WASHINGTON:

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,
EXHIBITING

The progress and condition of the Library during the year 1879.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,

Washington, January 2, 1880.

The undersigned has the honor to submit to the Joint Committee on the Library his annual report, embracing the customary statistics of the growth of the Library and the business of the copyright department during the calendar year 1879.

Renewed difficulty has been experienced in the annual enumeration of the books and other publications constituting the library collections, owing to the overcrowded condition, not only of the shelves, but of the floors in the alcoves and outlying rooms. The publications received under the copyright law, embracing not only books and periodicals, but a great variety and quantity of maps and works of graphic art, while very valuable, occupy a great space, and the only possible way of dealing with portions of them in the confined quarters to which the Library is now limited is to pile them in constantly growing heaps upon the floors. The shelf-room of the Library, adequate to the accommodation of about 280,000 volumes only, has been long since exhausted, and, as previous reports of the Librarian have shown, all possible means of adding to it, by the introduction of temporary wooden cases of shelves, have been exhausted also, until now the collections of the Library present a spectacle of overcrowding and apparent confusion painful to beholders, obstructive to the Librarian and his assistants in the discharge of their duties, and extremely injurious to the utility of the Library, both to the two houses of Congress and to the public.

The additions made during the year have been 21,367 volumes of books and 12,050 pamphlets, from the sources named below:

	Books.	Pamphlets.
By purchase	6,524	365
By copyright	10,529	7,662
By deposit of the Smithsonian Institution	2,854	2,219
By donation	420	635
By exchange	1,040	1,169
Total	21,367	12,050

These accessions have brought the aggregate collection up to 374,022 volumes of books, besides about 120,000 pamphlets. Of this aggregate the law department of the library numbers 46,823 volumes, and the miscellaneous library 327,199 volumes. At the date of my last report, January 1, 1879, the whole Library numbered 352,655 volumes, and 110,000 pamphlets.

The copyright department of the Library exhibits an unusual degree of growth during the year 1879. The entire business of entries of copyright titles and deposits of publications to secure copyright in the United States having been placed in charge of the Librarian of Congress in July, 1870, the annual number of entries and the amount of fees received and paid into the Treasury during the years since elapsed have been as follows:

	No. of Entries.	Fees.
1870.....	5, 600	\$4, 748 68
1871.....	12, 688	10, 187 15
1872.....	14, 164	12, 283 71
1873.....	15, 352	13, 404 30
1874.....	16, 283	13, 524 78
1875.....	15, 927	13, 151 50
1876.....	14, 882	12, 500 50
1877.....	15, 758	13, 076 00
1878.....	15, 798	13, 134 50
1879.....	18, 125	14, 689 90

During the calendar year 1879, the copyright business exhibits an increase of 2,327 entries over those of the preceding year, 1878, being a much larger increase than in any former year since the registry of copyrights was attached to the office of the Librarian. The fees paid into the Treasury by the undersigned on account of records of copyright, copies of such records, and assignments of copyright, amounted to the sum of \$14,689.90 in 1879, as against \$13,134.50 in 1878, showing an increase of \$1,555.40.

The aggregate entries of copyright publications of all kinds during the year 1879 were subdivided into the following classes:

Books.....	6, 580
Periodicals.....	3, 608
Musical compositions.....	4, 688
Dramatic compositions.....	414
Maps and charts.....	1, 094
Engravings and chromos.....	1, 262
Photographs.....	280
Prints.....	50
Designs and drawings.....	141
Paintings.....	8
Total	18, 125

The deposits of publications of every description during 1879 are summed up under the following heads, showing what accessions have

been made to the collections in the past twelve months under the law of copyright:

Books.....	10,530
Periodicals.....	7,501
Musical compositions.....	8,016
Dramatic compositions.....	162
Maps and charts.....	1,760
Engravings and chromos	2,212
Photographs	508
Prints	33
Designs.....	38
Paintings.....	2
 Total.....	 30,762

Two copies of each publication protected being required to be deposited, the net additions to the collections of copyright material are 15,381 articles, of which 5,265 were books, besides periodicals numbering 3,750.

The various funds under control of the Joint Committee on the Library exhibit balances unexpended to the following amounts, January 1, 1880:

Fund for the increase of the Library.....	\$9,458 59
Fund for ornamenting the Capitol with works of art.....	3,125 00
Fund for portraits of Presidents of the United States.....	1,134 50
Fund for purchase and printing of unpublished historical documents relating to early French discoveries in the Northwest and on the Mississippi.....	5,964 04
Fund for salaries in the Botanic Garden and greenhouses.....	4,738 00
Fund for improving Botanic Garden.....	1,302 04
Fund for contingent expenses of the Library	1,290 01

The provision of space to contain and to arrange the invaluable collections of literature and art confided to the immediate care of the National Legislature still remains the all-important burden of the Librarian's annual report. He will not here repeat any of the arguments or appeals in that behalf urged in every form during the past eight years in the communications which he has had the honor to make to the committee. The enormously increased difficulties of administering the Library in its distressingly crowded condition, and of answering the calls of Congress and the reading public with the requisite promptitude, justify the statement that the provision of room cannot longer be postponed without directly obstructing the business of Congress in its responsible labors. Into the reasons and the difficulties which have postponed all formerly proposed plans of relief he will not enter. The subject is once more earnestly commended to the attention of the committee, in the confident hope that they will be able to reach that successful consummation so much desired by all, but so long and so unfortunately delayed.

A. R. SPOFFORD.

Hon. D. W. VOORHEES,

Chairman of Joint Committee on the Library.

